

Ickford News

I was seated at my desk earlier in the week, deep in wistful thoughts of better times, when there was a knock on the door and two children came in to show me their exercise books already containing some really good work. On another occasion this week, the young Jack Turner took the opportunity to tell me that he won an award for playing football last weekend and yesterday, Mme Basnett, bent my ear (nothing changes) with how impressed she was with the efforts of her new class and their determination to make a good start. Though there may not appear to be much to celebrate in the world at the moment, these examples convinced me that, rather than wallow in the misery of Covid restrictions, it was important to keep celebrating the successes in school no matter how small and regardless of the reality that we can't have everyone in for a full blown, Celebration Assembly. Consequently, we had two, small, socially distanced assemblies this morning, sang happy birthday to Bryony Ellis in one of them and to James Harris in the other and gave out awards for achievement and effort, just like we did in the 'good old days!'

Without parents in attendance, it was rather like playing rugby or football in an empty stadium and without being able to sing I had to work extra hard in the 'front man' role to try and create an atmosphere of heightened excitement. Not easy I can tell you but I think I may have got good marks for effort!

It was a relief therefore and also heart-warming to see so many parents attend the 'meet the teacher' sessions this week. It has certainly helped that the teachers were able to clarify some expectations

and to answer some of your questions. I was also grateful of the chance to answer some questions and to give people some insight into the difficulties we have at the moment and the ways in which we are trying to overcome the challenges. We have all had to realise that our youngest children has missed significant amounts of pre-school and their Reception Class year and we are having to adjust expectations accordingly.

Forget the Rugby season, it is definitely cough and cold season and, as I said in a Parentmail, we do not need to isolate every child, or adult for that matter, who sneezes, sniffs or develops a headache. A little Calpol and a good night's sleep can work wonders and hopefully we can continue to apply some common sense at a time when it is usual for 'lurgies' other than Covid -19 to raise their ugly heads. It is important to be vigilant but also to be very clear about the Covid-symptoms such as fever, high temperature, persistent new cough and a loss of taste or smell before panicking and travelling to the Outer Hebrides for a test or worse, get doing a test by post. If your child is unwell, please follow our usual routines, if they seem unwell in school we will follow the guidelines and contact you. Rest assured, nothing is being ignored and no-one is being blasé.

Next week we will hold a first workshop of the year looking at Phonics and Reading. I shall lead on this and Miss Vukomanovic will be teaching attendees the correct phonics pronunciation and outlining how the progression works as the children develop their phonic knowledge. Previous participants are welcome to come and refresh their knowledge of the phonemes and the accompanying actions and the session will take place in the hall rather than in the classroom this year. Audience participation is crucial at this event so any

experts from previous years who would like to come along for moral support, please join us.

One of my development plan goals this year is: ***To make effective use of the outdoor space to enrich the curriculum and children's experience of school.***

A part of this is providing the wood for den making so continued thanks to everyone who has supported this. I am also hoping to teach children more about where our food comes from and how we grow food to eat so expect to see raised beds appearing and a new chicken complex for egg production. I have also purchased several batches of wild flower seeds and last year we planted more trees so hopefully, we can ensure that all of our children can connect with the natural world and make the most of the school environment beyond the classroom. These things take time so we shall need some patience but starting a project is often the most difficult step and that has been taken.

Have a good weekend

Mr Ronane

Ickford NEWS from the office

Dates for your diary...

7 th September	Class 4 & 5 Parent Meetings
8 th September	Class 1, 2 & 3 Parent Meetings
16 th Sept 7.30pm	Reading & Phonics Workshop

School Lottery

A winner within school every week!

If you would like the chance to win, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>



Breakfast Club

Please remember to book your child's place for breakfast club with the school office.

Entry to breakfast club will be via **Gate A** by the Recreation Ground. Please let your child come in independently.

Road Closures

Please make sure you are aware of road closures around the village and that you adjust your journeys accordingly.

Please Remember

We are a

NUT FREE school



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